

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness



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NEWSLETTER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- 9 State/Parish Citizen Corps Council Meeting (GOHSEP)
- 15 Region 9 Functional Exercise Mid-Term Planning Conference
- 16 Riverbend Graded Nuclear Exercise
- 17 Shelter Task Force Conference Call
- 22 Region 2 Functional Exercise Mid-Term Planning Conference
- 30 Region 4 Functional Exercise Mid-Term Planning Conference
- 31 Shelter Task Force Conference Call

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Labor Day
- 14 Shelter Task Force Conference Call
- 18-22 NEMA 2006 Annual Conference (Orange Beach, AL)
- 27 Region 4 Functional Exercise
- 28 Shelter Task Force Conference Call



GOHSEP's new portable communication device passed its first flight test. The units will be able to provide communications to hurricane-stricken areas.

RapidCom Goes Airborne

GOHSEP's new RapidCom portable communications unit went airborne last month in a test to make sure it can be hauled by a helicopter to areas without communications after a hurricane.

The RapidCom units provide satellite, radio, phone and Internet communications from virtually any location in the state. In situations with short-term or prolonged infrastructure failure, the units will assist local governments in establishing command and control until additional support can arrive.

A six-person incident action team will deploy with the RapidCom. The team will be interdisciplinary, made up of representatives from GOHSEP, State Police, Department of Justice, National Guard, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Department of Transportation and Development and Department of Corrections.

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The units come with two generators, propane tanks, one satellite antenna system and include mounting capability for additional antennas, as may be required for a variety of communications systems. The modules come with a trailer, but this test confirmed they can also be dropped from a helicopter if necessary.

The RapidCom passed the short flight test, but GOHSEP did learn that a swivel hook will be needed to prevent the unit from spinning as the helicopter descends to the ground.

GOHSEP will continue to test the RapidCom units and train the Incident Action Teams to accompany them.



Kevin Breaux (above) and Lt. Col. Roy Qualls (below), members of Incident Action Team 1, test the RapidCom at the East Baton Rouge Parish Emergency Operations Center.



GOHSEP briefs Senator Barham on state homeland security program

Recently, GOHSEP briefed Louisiana State Senator Robert Barham, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, on the status of the homeland security program in the state.

Senator Barham and legislative staffer Haywood Jeffers were briefed by agency leaders on the homeland security grant program, state emergency operational policies and procedures, training and the recovery status for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"We were happy to welcome Senator Barham and Mr. Jeffers to our facility. We appreciated their feedback and questions, and we look forward to working with them more in the future," said Col. (Ret.) Jeff Smith, acting director of the agency.

During the meeting, GOHSEP announced the U.S. Department of Homeland Security granted the state \$33.4 million for homeland security initiatives, placing Louisiana 12th in the nation for funding. Eighty percent of the money will go to local and regional projects, with the remaining 20% going to the state. Of the parish and regional funds, 70% is already allocated towards interoperable communications.

Other issues addressed in the meeting included the growth of the agency size since the 2005 hurricanes, training all emergency personnel in the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the state's progress towards processing more than \$7.4 billion in public assistance funds from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As of July 26, GOHSEP had processed over \$1.4 billion in public assistance for more than 3,000 applicants.



Col. Pat Santos named Assistant Deputy Director of Emergency Management

Recently, Col. (Ret.) Jeff Smith named Col. (Ret.) Pat Santos Assistant Deputy Director of Emergency Management for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Santos served as Chief of Homeland Security for the agency since January of 2006. The new position gives him primary oversight of all the State's emergency management functions.

"I look forward to meeting the challenges of this new position and being a part of the GOHSEP team," said Santos.

"I believe Pat will do an excellent job in this position, and I am glad to have him on board," said Smith, acting director of GOHSEP. "His experience in emergency management and his vital role in coordinating military support during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita thoroughly qualify him for the job."

Santos began his twenty-five year career in the Louisiana National Guard as a training officer and went on to serve in various command and staff positions. As the joint director of military support Col. Santos and his staff developed essential emergency plans and procedures while managing the military response and assistance efforts for numerous state emergencies and special events. His experience played a key role in coordinating the unprecedented military support efforts during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In January of 2006, he became the Chief of Homeland Security for the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. In a short time, he made a positive impact in the areas of training and the Homeland Security Grant Program.

Santos is a graduate of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Staff School and the Command and General Staff College. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of New Orleans and a Master's Degree in Organizational Management.

Louisiana Statewide Credentialing Access Program

The Louisiana Statewide Credentialing Access Program (LSCAP) clarifies the roles, responsibilities, and processes to guarantee critical infrastructure providers receive timely and efficient access to hurricane or other disaster-affected areas to repair infrastructure. The document is the result of joint federal, state, parish, local and private sector efforts to ensure the timely functionality of critical infrastructure for citizens.

The LSCAP was developed by the Louisiana State Police in partnership with the GOHSEP, Louisiana OEP Regional Coordinators, the Federal Department of Homeland Security and the Louisiana Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police Associations.

The document is available on the following Web sites:

**Governor's Office of Homeland
Security and Emergency
Preparedness**

<http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/plans/plansindex.htm>

Louisiana State Police

<http://www.lsp.org/index.html>

For more information, contact
Captain Mike Edmonson at
mike.edmonson@dps.la.gov

Quote for the Month

"Men make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

- Harry S. Truman

Division Summaries

PREPAREDNESS SECTION

Section Chief Neal Fudge

The following training courses are scheduled for the months of August and September:

ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Aug 9	St Landry
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Aug 10	St Landry
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Aug 10	Terrebonne
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Aug 11	St. Landry
ICS-200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Aug 14	Lafayette
ICS-200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Aug 15	Lafayette
ICS-200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Aug 15	Lafayette
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	Aug 15	St Mary
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Aug 16	St Mary
IS-700	Aug 16	Lake Providence
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Aug 17	Lake Providence
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Aug 17-18	St Mary
Structural Collapse Course	Aug 21-22	Jefferson Parish
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	Aug 22	Lafayette
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Aug 23	Lafayette
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Aug 24-25	Lafayette
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Aug 29	Lafayette
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	Sep 5	Iberia
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Sep 6	Iberia
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Sep 7-8	Iberia
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	Sep 12	Acadia
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Sep 13	Acadia
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Sep 14-15	Acadia
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	Sep 19	Lafayette
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Sep 20	Lafayette
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Sep 21-22	Lafayette
IS 700/800- NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	Sep 26	St. Martin
ICS-100- Introduction of ICS	Sep 27	St. Martin
ICS- 200- Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	Sep 28-29	St. Martin

Unified Logistics pre-positions commodities around the state

To prepare for hurricane season, Unified Logistics, which includes representatives from the GOHSEP, the Louisiana National Guard and FEMA, is positioning commodities and assets across the state.

Over 1.6 million MREs (meals ready-to-eat) and over 2 million bottles of water are already in place among the 13 coastal parishes and 5 shelter regions. The supplies along the coast will be used for first responders and evacuation needs. An additional 1.2 million MREs and bottles of water are on the way to provide even more shelter support.

“While logistics operations for Katrina and Rita were very successful, preparedness for the 2006 season is unprecedented. Working closely with our parish and federal counterparts we have secured and pre-positioned commodities deep into the potential hazard zone as well as in potential shelter locations across the state,” said Col. Pat Griffin, division chief for Unified Logistics. “This is the first time in history our state and nation have made such a high pre-storm commitment to readiness, and those efforts will allow us to respond immediately to any emergency situation ensuring the safety, security and well being of the citizens of Louisiana.”

In addition to food and water, Unified Logistics staged nine 1.5 megawatt generators at each of the special needs shelters and over 400 smaller generators with parishes and state agencies for disaster response efforts.

Unified Logistic also has more than 90 contracts on file for further items such as bulk water, more generators, fork lifts, fuel, ice, sand bags and base camps.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION

Section Chief Matt Farlow

MyStateUSA Pilot Program

By Steven Burr



GOHSEP, as the lead agency for the Louisiana Emergency Alert System (EAS), is currently participating in a pilot program in conjunction with our parish partners in Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Washington, St. Charles, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Cameron, and Calcasieu Parishes.

The pilot is intended to test the system's Emergency Alert System (EAS) functionality in a "day-to-day" working environment. The hope is this secure, Web-based system will provide a more robust platform and a means for parish directors to utilize the state EAS system directly. If implemented, the system will allow access from any location that has an Internet connection via a secure login.

Don Barrett and Richard Williams from MyStateUSA were in town July 31st through 2nd August. The pair trained GOHSEP personnel as well as representatives from a number of the pilot parishes. Louisiana State Police (LSP) also attended the training. LSP is interested in not only the EAS capabilities but also the possibility of using the product in conjunction with the Amber Alert system.

MyStateUSA provides various web-based emergency management communications systems.

For additional information about the state's pilot program, please contact Matt Farlow at (225) 925-7420.

To learn more about Louisiana's EAS system, visit www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/eas/eas_index.htm.

DISASTER RECOVERY SECTION

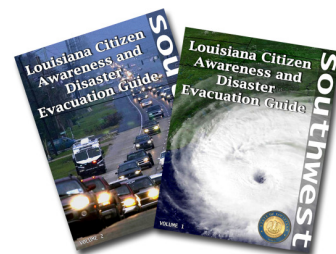
Section Chief Art Jones

As of July 31, FEMA has obligated \$2.9 billion for public assistance projects and has written 12,597 project worksheets for Hurricane Katrina.

For Hurricane Rita, FEMA has obligated \$3.25 million and has written 3,833 project worksheets.

The Small Business Administration has approved more than \$5.1 billion in home applications and more than \$1.4 million in business/EIDL applications, totaling over \$6.5 billion.

Evacuation Guides Available through the American Red Cross



In cooperation with the Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana State Police and the American Red Cross, GOHSEP has released an updated version of the Southeast evacuation guide and a new Southwest evacuation guide.

The new guides contain travel trailer/mobile home safety guidelines as well as updated contact information. The Southwest guide features a new contraflow plan designed for that region.

The evacuation guides are available through the following local chapters of the American Red Cross:

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

Greater New Orleans Area:
1-800-229-8191 or 504-620-3105
St. Bernard Parish: 504-278-4228

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Lafayette Area: 337-234-7371
Lake Charles Area: 337-478-5122

For more information or to obtain guides in the Baton Rouge area, contact Mark Smith at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness by phone, 225-925-7427, or email, marksmith@ohsep.louisiana.gov.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Section Chief Lt. Col. Bill Doran

Detailed E-Team training concluded on August 1, with all 64 parishes participating. This was the most comprehensive E-Team training to date. Jim Ballow, Senior Operations Officer, continues to offer training for all state agencies and Emergency Support Function (ESF) personnel. For more information on E-Team training or to schedule training, contact Jim Ballow at 225-925-7500 or JBallow@ohsep.louisiana.gov.

In June, Lt. Col. Bill Doran, Pat Arnould and Wendy Brogdon met with emergency management officials from 12 other states at the Florida State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee for an overview of Florida's emergency management program and State Emergency Response Team (SERT) operations. The group discussed a variety of topics including operations, information technology, meteorology, public information, logistics and recovery. This was a great opportunity for state colleagues to come together, share experiences and discuss common challenges and best practices.



Pat Arnould, GOHSEP Senior Planner, examines Florida's Mobile Command Center



Florida's Emergency Operations Center

GOHSEP Operations and Planning Division welcomes the following new employees:

Lee John – *Operations Specialist*

Lee lives in Crowley and recently retired as a Master Sergeant after 30 years of service in the Louisiana National Guard.

Brian Fletcher – *Logistics Specialist*

Brian lives in Gonzales and is a former liaison to Cameron Parish.

Michelle Ralston - *Transportation Evacuation Branch Manager*

Michelle lives in Baton Rouge and comes to us from the US Department of Homeland Security.

Amy Dawson – *Health and Human Services Branch Manager*

Amy lives in Baton Rouge and comes to us from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

**This newsletter is available on the GOHSEP Web site at
http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/newsletters/newsletters_main.htm**

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adavidson@ohsep.louisiana.gov.**